

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of this amendment, claim 6 will be canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, and claims 1, 7 and 17 will be amended, whereby claims 1-5 and 7-17 will remain pending. Claim 1 is the sole independent claim.

Claim 1 has been amended herein to substantially include the recitation of claim 6, claim 6 has been canceled, and claims 7 and 17 have been amended to change their dependencies from claim 6 to claim 1.

Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Formal Matters

Applicants express appreciation for the acknowledgement of the claim of foreign priority as well as receipt of the certified copy in parent Application No. 09/758,243.

Applicants express appreciation for the Examiner's confirmation of consideration of Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement by including an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 submitted therewith.

Applicants also express appreciation for the indication that the drawings filed April 17, 2004 are accepted.

Response To Rejections

The following rejection are set forth in the Office Action:

(a) 1, 8, 9, 11-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by REYNOLDS, U.S. Patent No. 3,355,350.

(b) Claims 2-7 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over REYNOLDS, U.S. Patent No. 3,355,350.

In response to this ground of rejection, Applicants note that claim 6 has been amended to include the recitation of claim 6 which has not been rejected based upon anticipation. Accordingly, the anticipation rejection is no longer applicable and should be withdrawn.

Regarding the obviousness rejection, Applicants note that independent claim 1 is directed to a press arrangement for dewatering a pulp web in a machine for at least one of production and finishing of a pulp web, comprising at least one press nip formed by a lower press roll and an upper press roll arranged approximately above and pressed against said lower press roll; at least one dewatering belt adapted to run above the pulp web through said at least one press nip, and to receive water expressed from the pulp web; a water receiving device positioned between said upper press roll and said at least one dewatering belt, said water receiving device comprising at least one suction channel projecting into a wedge-shaped area between said upper press roll and said at least one dewatering belt and extending along said at least one press nip to be transverse to the pulp web, and a connection to connect said at least one suction channel to a source of reduced pressure; and a collecting tank connected to said at

least one suction channel that receives and transports away water aspirated into said at least one suction channel.

The obviousness rejection admits that Reynolds is silent with respect to the specifics of the claims under rejection, but contends that one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that this is a matter of optimization of a result effective variables and it has been held that discovery of an optimum value of a result effective variable in a known process is ordinarily within the skill of the art.

In contrast to the assertions in the rejection, Applicants respectfully submit that the obviousness rejection does not teach or suggest the combination of features recited in Applicants' claims. Thus, for example, the rejection is silent with respect to Applicants' recited structure which includes, amongst other features, a collecting tank connected to the at least one suction channel that receives and transports away water aspirated into the at least one suction channel.

The Examiner is reminded that the rejection must establish where each and every feature recited in Applicants' claims is within the prior art, and must show motivation for modifying the primary reference to include such features. In the instant situation, the prior art is silent as to any indication where the prior art teaches or suggests the combination of features recited in Applicants' independent claim 1. Accordingly, for at least this reason, the obviousness rejection is without appropriate basis and should be withdrawn.

Moreover, the obviousness rejection does not establish that Applicants' recited parameters are art recognized parameters, and that one having ordinary skill in the art

would perform experimentation to arrive at optimum values for these parameters.

Accordingly, for this additional reason, the obviousness rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, if this ground of rejection is maintained, the Examiner is respectfully requested to denote structure in REYNOLDS that would include or arrive at structure recited in Applicants independent claim 1 and further defined in the dependent claims.

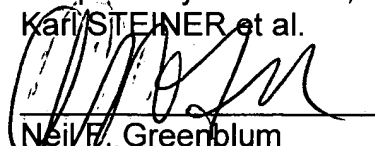
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of record, and allow each of the pending claims.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that an early indication of allowance of the application be indicated by the mailing of the Notices of Allowance and Allowability.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Karl STEINER et al.



Neil F. Greenblum
Reg. No. 28,394

September 28, 2005
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

Arnold Turk
Reg. No. 33,094